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The President's Daily Brief

September 12, 1975

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 25X1

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EGYPT

Cairo is demonstrating its unwillingness to brook open opposition to the Sinai disengagement agreement. Yesterday Egypt ordered the cessation of Voice of Palestine broadcasts from Cairo; earlier in the week Egypt threatened to recall its ambassador from Syria.

The Voice of Palestine is an autonomous Palestinian program that uses Egyptian broadcast facilities and is one of several similar programs broadcast at the sufferance of Arab governments. Egypt, angered by a spate of attacks on the Sinai accord included in the program, has replaced it with one that is broadcast on behalf on the Palestinians but with its content under Egyptian control. The Egyptian minister who failed to muzzle the Palestinians has been dismissed.

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Following President Sadat's lead, the Cairo press has ended its usual restraint toward Syria and is engaging in direct verbal battle. The media have been less harsh on the Palestinians, probably because Cairo is less surprised and less disturbed by Palestinian attacks.

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LEBANON

Army units moved into position between Tripoli and Zagharta yesterday, effectively ending the fighting in northern Lebanon. A few leftist and Muslim politicians in Tripoli have criticized the cabinet's decision to bring in the army, but the majority of Muslims and Christians appear to have welcomed it.

The country's principal Muslim political leaders, who reside in Beirut and ordinarily oppose any use of the army for internal security purposes, have so far withheld comment. This is partly out of deference to Prime Minister Karami, who heads one important Sunni Muslim faction, but also reflects admiration for the concessions he has been able to wring from Lebanon's conservative Christian leaders.

According to press reports from Beirut, the cabinet yesterday approved a bill reorganizing the army to establish the "command council" proposed by Karami in a policy speech last month. Although no details have been made public, the council presumably would include representatives of Lebanon's major religious sects and have the final word on such matters as army deployments and promotions. Loss of these prerogatives would reduce significantly the power of the army commander, who by custom is always a Maronite Christian.

Proposals to reorganize the army have in the past run into strong opposition from Christian groups in parliament. Karami's position has been strengthened considerably by his handling of the current crisis, however, and his proposals now may win greater backing from centrist Christian politicians hoping to avoid another round of violence.

Lebanese and Palestinian radicals backed by Iraq have called for a general strike on Monday to protest deployment of the army. Their call is not likely to be heeded unless the continuing cabinet talks on army reform break down.

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PORTUGAL

President Costa Gomes and his prospective prime minister, Admiral Azevedo, are working to overcome the latest obstacle to forming a new government--a Communist refusal to cooperate.

Military leaders want the Communist, Socialist, and Popular Democratic parties to join in the formation of a "national unity" government. The Socialists and Popular Democrats have agreed with the military on the terms under which they would participate, but the Communists are balking in an apparent effort to get better terms for themselves.

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On the Atlantic island of Madeira, meanwhile, a serious threat to Lisbon's authority seems to be gathering steam. On Wednesday, the pro-independence forces there threatened to expel all those opposed to independence. The list of potential expellees includes the chief of staff of the Portuguese forces in Madeira, all continental officers stationed there, and all members of the Communist Party.

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NOTES

Ambassador Eilts in Cairo has heard [redacted] *the* Soviet Union *will be withdrawing its four MIG-25 aircraft from* Egypt *in the next day or so.* 25X1 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] In view of the new strains in Soviet-Egyptian relations, Moscow may have decided that this is the time to pull the planes out. 25X1

* * *

The Soviets *are searching for a new test site* [redacted] 25X1

The Threshold Test Ban Treaty, due to become effective March 31, 1976, will require each side to designate the test sites to be used after the effective date and to give calibration yields and geological data for each site selected. If the Soviets were to continue testing at present sites, they would be obligated to give calibration yields and geological data for these sites. [redacted] 25X1 25X1

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The Soviets *are implying that our development of new cruise missiles is an effort to circumvent the spirit of the SALT I Interim Agreement.*

Wednesday's issue of *Red Star*, the Soviet military daily, described how US attack submarines could be equipped with strategic cruise missiles, in effect, circumventing the SALT I limitation restricting the US submarine-launched ballistic missiles to 41 submarines. The Interim Agreement says nothing about cruise missiles. The *Red Star* article is significant for its revelation of concern in the Soviet military over how to monitor cruise missiles on submarines. It may imply resistance within the Soviet military to any SALT II agreement that fails to limit US naval strategic cruise missiles.

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